



World Kinect Corporation (WKC)

Updated April 28th, 2026, by Aristofanis Papadatos

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$26	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	11.7%	Market Cap:	\$1.4 B
Fair Value Price:	\$37	5 Year Growth Estimate:	2.0%	Ex-Dividend Date¹:	6/16/26
% Fair Value:	71%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	7.1%	Dividend Payment Date:	7/15/26
Dividend Yield:	3.1%	5 Year Price Target	\$40	Years Of Dividend Growth:	7
Dividend Risk Score:	D	Sector: Energy		Rating:	Hold

Overview & Current Events

World Kinect Corporation (WKC) is a leading global energy distribution and management company that offers a broad range of solutions across the energy spectrum to more than 150,000 customers worldwide. It generates about half of its revenue in the U.S. and the other half in international markets. Its Land segment offers fuels and lubricants to retail petroleum operators as well as industrial, commercial, residential and government customers. The Marine segment offers similar products to shipping companies while the Aviation segment is focused on commercial, government and military aviation customers. In 2025, the Land, Marine and Aviation segments generated 31%, 14% and 55%, respectively, of the total gross profit of the company. World Kinect was incorporated in Miami, Florida in 1984, and has a market capitalization of \$1.4 billion.

In late April, World Kinect reported (4/23/26) results for the first quarter of 2026. Its Land business continued to face unfavorable conditions in its natural gas division. However, the Aviation segment grew its gross profit 20% thanks to the acquisition of Universal TSS and the Marine segment grew its gross profit 86% thanks to much higher bunker fuel prices amid the war in Iran. As a result, earnings-per-share surged 56%, from \$0.48 to \$0.75, and exceeded the analysts' consensus by \$0.44. Thanks to the tailwind from the war in Iran, management raised its guidance for adjusted earnings-per-share this year from \$2.20-\$2.40 to \$2.65-\$2.85. Accordingly, we have raised our forecast from \$2.30 to \$2.75.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031
EPS	\$1.81	-\$2.50	\$1.89	\$2.69	\$1.71	\$1.16	\$2.04	\$1.95	\$2.18	\$1.91	\$2.75	\$3.04
DPS	0.24	0.24	0.24	\$0.36	\$0.40	\$0.48	\$0.52	\$0.56	\$0.68	\$0.77	\$0.80	\$1.12
Shares	70	68	68	67	64	63	63	60	58	55	54	50

Due to its focus on the highly cyclical energy market, World Kinect has exhibited a remarkably volatile performance record over the last decade. Even worse, the company has failed to grow its earnings-per-share over the last decade, as it has been unable to match its strong performance in 2014-2015, which were favorable years for its business.

On the bright side, the company is trying to enhance its operating margin by acquiring smaller companies. In 2022, it acquired Flyers and thus it enhanced its presence in the West Coast while it also improved its margins in its Land segment. World Kinect enhanced its adjusted gross margin from 21% in 2020 to 24% in 2025 and expects to improve it to 30% in 2026. Given also the small market share in its Land (<1%) and Aviation (~10%) segment, the company sees ample room for future growth. Due to the high comparison base formed by the 10-year high earnings-per-share expected in 2026, we expect 2% average annual growth of earnings-per-share over the next five years.

Valuation Analysis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Now	2031
Avg. P/E	24.9	---	13.3	12.9	15.9	27.5	12.7	12.1	12.1	13.9	9.5	13.3
Avg. Yld.	0.5%	0.7%	1.0%	1.0%	1.5%	1.5%	2.0%	2.4%	2.6%	2.9%	3.1%	2.8%

¹ Estimated date.

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Excluding the years in which depressed earnings resulted in abnormally high price-to-earnings ratios, World Kinect has traded with an average price-to-earnings ratio of 13.3 over the last decade. As a cyclical business, World Kinect tends to have higher price-to-earnings ratios during periods of lower earnings, and lower price-to-earnings ratios during periods of higher earnings. We view 13.3 as a fair earnings multiple for this stock, which is now trading at a price-to-earnings ratio of 9.5. If it trades at its fair valuation level in five years, it will enjoy a 7.1% annualized gain in its returns.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031
Payout	13%	---	13%	13%	23%	41%	25%	29%	31%	40%	29%	37%

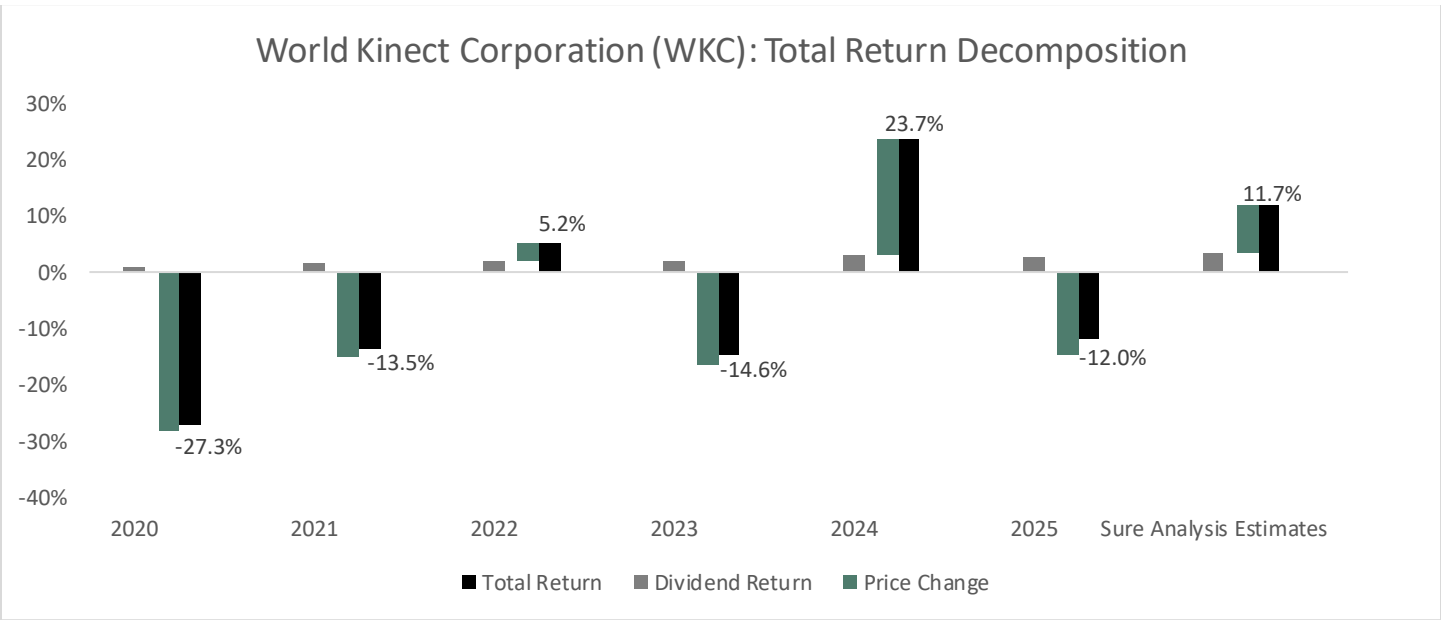
World Kinect has a highly cyclical business and hence it is vulnerable to economic downturns. During the pandemic, it incurred a -36% decrease in earnings-per-share in 2020 and a further -32% decrease in 2021. It also posted material losses in 2017 due to unfavorable conditions in the energy market in that year.

Moreover, we note that the company has a weak balance sheet, with net debt of \$2.6 billion, which is 186% the market cap of the stock, and interest expense consuming 44% of operating income. World Kinect can easily service its debt during calm periods but it is likely to come under pressure whenever the next downturn of the energy market shows up. For all these reasons, the stock is not suitable for income-oriented investors. In addition, due to its high cyclical nature, this is not a buy-and-hold-forever stock for any type of investor. As soon as World Kinect approaches our target price, investors should take their profits. The vast underperformance of the stock vs. the S&P 500 over the last decade (-43% vs. +248%) is a testament to the risk of the stock.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

World Kinect has exhibited a lackluster performance record but its future looks brighter thanks to promising growth potential. The stock has rallied 45% off its bottom in 2023 but it could still offer an 11.7% average annual return over the next five years thanks to 2.0% growth of earnings-per-share, its 3.1% dividend and a 7.1% potential valuation tailwind. We rate the stock as a hold but we reiterate that the stock is suitable only for investors who can tolerate the volatility related to the business of the company and the resultant stock price volatility.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Revenue	27,016	33,696	39,750	36,819	20,358	31,337	59,043	47,711	42,168	36,917
Gross Profit	899	932	1,019	1,112	852	788	1,089	1,058	1,026	510
Gross Margin	3.3%	2.8%	2.6%	3.0%	4.2%	2.5%	1.8%	2.2%	2.4%	1.4%
SG&A Exp.	710	735	742	793	678	634	816	820	780	283
D&A Exp.	82	86	82	87	86	81	108	105	106	98
Operating Profit	189	197	277	319	174	154	273	238	247	230
Op. Margin	0.7%	0.6%	0.7%	0.9%	0.9%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%
Net Profit	127	(170)	128	179	110	74	114	53	67	-612
Net Margin	0.5%	-0.5%	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	-1.7%
Free Cash Flow	15	(188)	(255)	148	553	134	60	184	192	227
Income Tax	16	149	56	56	52	26	29	13	28	-128

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Assets	5,413	5,588	5,677	5,992	4,500	5,942	8,165	7,375	6,732	5,864
Cash & Equivalents	699	372	212	186	659	652	298	304	383	194
Acc. Receivable	2,344	2,706	2,740	2,892	1,238	2,355	3,294	2,736	2,433	2,209
Inventories	458	505	523	593	344	478	780	665	514	454
Goodwill	1,118	1,125	1,098	1,065	1,062	1,051	1,569	1,538	1,443	1,049
Total Liabilities	3,473	3,850	3,845	4,099	2,587	4,026	6,174	5,426	4,776	4,556
Accounts Payable	1,770	2,240	2,400	2,603	1,215	2,400	3,530	3,098	2,727	2,587
Long-Term Debt	1,186	910	701	629	525	509	846	888	881	697
Total Equity	1,925	1,722	1,815	1,890	1,909	1,913	1,985	1,943	1,949	1,299
LTD/E Ratio	0.62	0.53	0.39	0.33	0.27	0.27	0.43	0.46	0.45	0.54

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Return on Assets	2.5%	-3.1%	2.3%	3.1%	2.1%	1.4%	1.6%	0.7%	1.0%	-9.7%
Return on Equity	6.6%	-9.3%	7.2%	9.6%	5.8%	3.8%	5.8%	2.7%	3.5%	-37.5%
ROIC	4.4%	-5.9%	4.9%	7.1%	4.4%	3.0%	4.3%	1.9%	2.4%	-24.4%
Shares Out.	70	68	68	67	64	63	63	60	60	56
Revenue/Share	387.05	494.79	587.15	553.67	318.10	495.06	941.68	773.27	708.71	660.40
FCF/Share	0.21	(2.75)	(3.76)	2.22	8.64	2.12	0.96	2.98	3.22	4.06

Note: All figures in millions of U.S. Dollars unless per share or indicated otherwise.

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